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Outgoing Whitchurch-Stouffville Hydro Commission Chairman Herb Peach (right) was given a gift by fellow members last week after eight years of service on the commission. He received the gift, a clock, from new chairman Maureen Wideman.

Photo / KIM THOMAS
Packages on hydro agenda

Computer packages and gift packages were both on the Whitchurch-Stouffville Hydro Commission agenda last Thursday.

Computer consultant Michael Asner outlined a proposal for a new computer package for the utility commission.

man Maureen Wideman presented outgoing chairman Herb Peach with a gift for his last eight years of service on the utility commission.

During computer package discussions, Mr. Asner noted the town's current system is approaching capacity on its MAI system. He recommended a Pennsylvania-based company, U.S. Technology, whose product he felt was particularly suited to small utilities.

He said the new system could accommodate up to 32 personal computers and estimated the cost of transferring company records from MAI to the new system, training hydro staff and overseeing the initial set up would be around \$10,000.

Software costs could range from \$1,000 to \$8,000 depending on the billing base, and the purchase of personal computers would be at the utility's discretion. If the Commission was interested in pursuing inquiries, Mr. Asner said he could arrange to set up a demonstration.

Pat Kuhn emphasized to the Commission that a decision on computers would have to be made in the near future.

"We're just about as full as we can be," she said.

Although the present system could handle billing, "we can't do peripheral stuff at all. We should be looking at getting something new in the 1990 budget."

It was agreed the Commission should contact other users of the U.S. Technology computers for information and also try to identify consultants who could assess the requirements of the local utility.

Hydro superintendent Brian Carter stated he'd asked for quotes from two additional contractors on the cost of tree trimming. One was not interested in doing such a project, he said, and the other came in at double the initial quote received last month. It was agreed the work should be carried out by the original contractor, who has done similar work for a number of area utilities.

Mr. Carter advised there had been trouble with underground wires on Main Street since the previous meeting. Repairs have now been carried out, but it was felt the damage had probably been done by the contractor working on the downtown improvements. It was agreed Barr Construction should be billed for the damage, estimated at approximately \$2,000.

It was also agreed A & S Construction should be billed for three additional hydro lines that would be required for the construction of a new subdivision at the east end of town.

Will Morley asked whether the utility would have sufficient capacity if additional sewage capacity were made available and substantial growth resulted.

Mr. Carter conceded it would put capacity "right on the borderline" and agreed with Mr. Morley it wasn't too early to alert the Town of the situation. He told the meeting he's presently working on a report on future requirements.

"I should be able to have something together in a month."

Mr. Carter reported the new fences at the west end substation were close to completion.

During the meeting, a special presentation was made to Herb Peach in recognition of his service, including four years as chairman. New chairman Maureen Wideman presented Mr. Peach with a clock and praised his efforts on behalf of the Commission.

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